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Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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TO: Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee

FROM: Megan Moore, committee staff

RE: Subcommittee Recommends Not Formalizing Subcommittee Process But Providing Some Guidance to Taxation Chairs

DATE: May 24, 2016

The subcommittee tasked with making a recommendation to the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee about whether the committee should recommend formalizing a joint revenue estimating subcommittee met May 3.

Subcommittee members found the joint revenue estimating process used last legislative session to be a successful process that was useful in resolving a large difference between the estimates provided by the Legislative Fiscal Division and the Office of Budget and Program Planning. However, the subcommittee does not recommend formalizing a revenue estimating subcommittee in legislative rules because a subcommittee process may not be necessary if revenue estimates presented by the two offices are similar.

The recommendation of the subcommittee is for the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee to recommend to the taxation committee chairs that a subcommittee be formed only if deemed necessary to resolve differences in the revenue estimates presented by legislative branch and executive branch staff. Because the subcommittee would serve in an advisory capacity, the subcommittee recommends providing the following guidance on the composition of a subcommittee, if appointed:

- Taxation committee chairs appoint subcommittee members;
- Equal party representation;
- Equal chamber representation;
- Senate member to serve as presiding officer; and
- Taxation chairs may not vote unless appointed as members of the subcommittee.

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